

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GE, UN

SUBJECT: THREE DAY VISIT TO EAST BERLIN OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL

WALDHEIM PRODUCES FEW SURPRISES.

REF: BERLIN 5204

1. THE VISIT TO EAST BERLIN FROM FEBRUARY 7-9 OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM PRODUCED FEW SURPRISES ON MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST. DURING THE VISIT WALDHEIM MET WITH TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE GDR INCLUDING FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER, CHAIRMAN STOPH OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, CHAIRMAN SINDERMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER. WALDHEIM'S VISIT WENT OFF APPARENTLY AS SCHEDULED AND WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT HITCHES.

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2. DURING A TOAST AT AN OFFICIAL DINNER AT THE

SCHLOSS CECELINENHOF AT POTSDAM, WALDHEIM THANKED
THE EAST GERMANS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK

OF THE UN WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE GDR'S
ACTIVE ROLE IN WORKING ON PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND
DISARMAMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION WALDHEIM EXPRESSED
THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE WOULD SOON BE BROUGHT TO A
POSITIVE CONCLUSION. FINALLY HE GAVE HIS THANKS
FOR THE INVITATION OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT TO THE
UN'S ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE WHOSE MEETING
WAS HELD HERE LAST YEAR.

3. DURING WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO SCHLOSS CECELIENHOF
NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN, SOME OF WHICH
FEATURE THE FLAGS OF THE THREE POWERS WHICH CONCLUDED
THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED
HERE IN 1945. THE US FLAG WAS PROMINENT IN THESE
PHOTOGRAPHS. ONE OF THE PRESS REPORTS ON THE VISIT
TO POTSDAM MENTIONS THAT THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT WAS
CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE US AND
GREAT BRITAIN AFTER THE FREEING OF EUROPE FROM
FASCISM 30 YEARS AGO.

4. COMMENT: THE SUBJECT OF GERMAN NATIONALITY
APPARENTLY DID NOT ARISE IN ANY OF THE PUBLIC
DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED BY SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM
WHO MET WITH THE PRESS JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE
ON FEBRUARY 9 AND WHO ALSO GAVE AN INTERVIEW ON
EAST GERMAN TELEVISION. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS
ADDRESSED TO WALDHEIM HAD TO DO WITH THE WORK OF
THE UN WITH REFERENCE TO PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREAS
LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST, CHILE AND INDO-CHINA.
CHAIRMAN STOPH EXPRESSED THE GDR'S SUPPORT FOR THE
UN CHARTER AND THE WORK OF THE UN IN PROMOTING
WORLD PEACE. WALDHEIM'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EAST
GERMAN LEADERSHIP WERE DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS "USEFUL".
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